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PATENT
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of

BELOTSERKOVSKII, et al.

Serial No.: 09/557,423

Filing Date: March 21, 2000

For: LOCKED NUCLEIC ACID HYBRIDS
AND METHODS OF USE

) Examiner: B. Loeb

) Group Art Unit: 1636

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Typed or Printed Name: DARREN M. HARRIS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-5, 7-26, 28-42, 46-47, and 49-51 without prejudice or disclaimer.
Please amend and add the following:

Please amend and add the following claims:

43. (Amended) A composition comprising at least one recombinase and a double D-loop comprising a target nucleic acid and a single stranded targeting polynucleotide comprising a first homology clamp that is substantially complementary to a preselected target nucleic acid sequence, a second homology clamp that is substantially complementary to said preselected target nucleic acid sequence, and at least one locking sequence.

113. (New) The composition of claim 43 further comprising a second single stranded polynucleotide comprising a first homology clamp that is substantially complementary to said